

## WELCOME TO ROWLAND HOLLOW CREEK PRESERVE!

The Rowland Hollow Creek Preserve is a ~45 acre preserve with 3/4 mile of trails that meander through a wooded area and includes an overlook of Rowland Hollow Creek. This preserve is part of an innovative conservation subdivision project in conjunction with the new Meadow Vista Estates development. A wooded trail system invites people to safely explore the preserve while the woodlands protect wildlife habitat and the water quality of Rowland Hollow Creek. Project partners include Charlew Builders and the City of Saratoga Springs.

### What is Letterboxing?

Letterboxing is an old English tradition dating back to 1854 where people began leaving a self-addressed post card or note in a jar, hoping for them to be returned by mail by the next visitor. Today we've adapted this English tradition and put it to use on Saratoga PLAN's nature preserves and trails. Each preserve has a letterbox ranging in difficulty for participants and gives each type of adventurer an exciting opportunity to explore our preserves and have fun while doing so. When you find the letterbox, you can feel free to take a postcard, and mail it back to us with your comments about your journey. You can also take the stamp from within the letterbox and mark your PLAN Preserve Passport on the appropriate page. Once you have collected at least five stamps (or listed three species observed during each visit) stop by PLAN's offices in Saratoga Springs for a FREE Saratoga PLAN t-shirt!

**We hope you enjoy your letterboxing experience on this preserve. Interspersed within the clues *in italics* are natural history observations and hiking information for those interested, for example:**

*This preserve has become a hub for beaver activity! You can even see remnants of a beaver dam from the preserve's blue spur trail.*

### LETTERBOX CLUES FOR ROWLAND HOLLOW CREEK PRESERVE

Whether you're walking, running, or skipping:

1. **Start your journey at the trail head with the kiosk on your left, this is the white trail.**

*This trail starts off winding between the road and a neighborhood, but soon, the woods will begin to thicken around you!*

2. **Following the white trail, you will come to your first intersection with a trail breaking off to your left. Stay to the right. Continue on the white trail as it weaves through the forest.**

*Can you spot an old stone foundation off to the right side of the trail? What do you think it is from? Soon, the trail will take you over a stone wall, another remnant from the preserve's history.*

3. **The white trail will soon begin to curve around to the left. Follow the trail as it does, keeping an eye out for the many different birds that live in the surrounding trees.**

*The tall trees surrounding you as you enter the woods are primarily Red Pines.*

4. **Next, look out for the bench that is on the white trail.**

*Take advantage of the bench to enjoy the sights and sounds of the rich wetland habitat located opposite the bench, just down the hill. This bench was donated to Saratoga PLAN by the Saratoga -Wilton Elks Lodge #161 and Wilton Cub Scout Pack #16.*

5. **Back on the trail you will begin traveling downhill.**

6. **As the trail curves towards the left, stop in the bend of the curve so that when you look left you are almost in line with a kiosk and looking to the right you see a HUGE tree, with many other trees growing out of it!**

*How many trees can you count growing out of this HUGE tree?*

7. **Explore this HUGE tree closer; the letterbox is nearby!**

### GREAT WORK!

To head out, continue on the white trail in the same direction you were traveling before and just before the kiosk you will come to an intersection. The white trail to the left will take you back to the parking lot, or choose the red trail to your right if you would like to continue your adventure. The red trail is a short additional loop, which includes an option of a quick lookout on the blue spur trail. Please do not leave the woods by using the trail that heads straight past the second kiosk into an open field and pond, as that is private property.

We hope you enjoyed your letterboxing adventure at the Rowland Hollow Creek Preserve. Please return the letter box as you found it, and head out the way you came in.

**Thank you!**

- Your Friends at Saratoga PLAN

The mission of Saratoga PLAN is to preserve the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of Saratoga County so that these irreplaceable assets are accessible to all and survive for future generations. To learn more, please visit us at [www.saratogaplan.org](http://www.saratogaplan.org).